

Immediate release:

e-Learning Foundation To Give Away £1.5 million In Autumn Grant Round

Grants available to schools for home linked e-learning programmes

18 June 2008 - The e-Learning Foundation, a registered charity, is giving away £1.5 million in its annual Autumn Grant Round for Primary and Secondary schools in the UK for home access e-learning projects.

So far, the e-Learning Foundation has helped fund e-learning projects in over 300 schools nationwide, providing learning technologies for over 50,000 school children to tap into at home and in school for their studies.

The e-Learning Foundation is inviting proposals for grant funding for home linked e-learning projects from schools across the UK. All the projects chosen will support the shared common principles of equity of access, home access and sustainability of funding through parental involvement.

While schools are better equipped with technology than ever before, the variation in the quality of learning that takes place in the home is enormous. As children only spend 15% of their lives at school, home access to technology is extremely important in their future success.

“The launch of our twelfth grant round with such a large fund allows us to maintain the vital momentum needed in our work to erase the digital divide in this country,” commented Valerie Thompson, Chief Executive of the e-Learning Foundation. “Priority will be given to schools serving disadvantaged communities in urban and rural areas, especially new projects who require kick start funding”.

“Projects in areas of significant social disadvantage are likely to receive a higher percentage of their project cost as a grant, but as grant awards are linked to the number of pupils from low income families all schools are encouraged to apply” added Thompson.

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Good access to ICT (Information and Communications Technology) at home has been proven to significantly influence educational outcomes. Yet low income and single parent families are still far less likely to own a home computer than high income families. At the same time, whilst there is a growing preference for portable technologies within schools, fewer than 20% of schools loan computers for home use.

Terms and conditions apply; for further details on how to apply please log onto the e-Learning Foundation website www.e-learningfoundation.com

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Notes:

Projects looking to apply for an e-Learning Foundation grant in 2008 will need to fulfil the following criteria:

1. **Be equitable** (so every child has the same opportunity to take part regardless of their parents' ability to financially contribute). As the e-Learning Foundation knows that many schools serve disadvantaged communities, the grant is provided to ensure financial cover for low income families (roughly based on families with Free School Meal and Working Tax Credits eligibility within the cohort) and not to be applied as a general subsidy. However, every parent should be given the opportunity to contribute something even though some may not be able to do so.
2. **Guarantee use of the resources by pupils at home**, either through the use of portable devices that can be used both at school and at home or else home-based devices
3. **Be sustainable** through regular donations from those parents who are able to financially contribute. The e-Learning Foundation can help reduce administration workload through its Donation Management Service.
4. **Schools must be affiliated to the e-Learning Foundation** before they can apply for a grant. An application form for this, and the grant application form, is available from the e-Learning Foundation website together with the detailed terms and conditions that applicants should read carefully before submitting their application.

School that are unsure of their eligibility should call the e-Learning Foundation for more details on 01932 796036 or go to the website at www.e-learningfoundation.com.

The e-Learning Foundation's twelfth grant round closes for applications on Wednesday 24 September 2008 at 5pm. Grants must be drawn down by January 30th 2009.

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About the e-Learning Foundation

The e-Learning Foundation was launched in 2001, to ensure that every schoolchild in the UK should have home access to learning technologies when and where they want to learn.

The Foundation, a registered charity, aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all children, irrespective of their background, can have the same access to technology for learning at home as their better off peers. The estimated cost of this runs into £billions, so unlikely to be provided by Government alone.

The Foundation is funded through the public, private and third sector in the form of Government grants, commercial sponsorship, grants and donations.

PR Contact: Jan Howells at the e-Learning Foundation on 01932 796036 or e-mail jan@e-learningfoundation.co.uk